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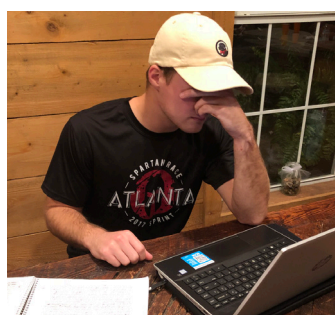
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An Evening with Archie

The 16th Annual MC Athletic Dinner

KYLE HAMRICK
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

A pleasant diversion from election day was the 2018 Mississippi College Dr. Don Phillips Athletics Dinner held in Anderson Hall at 6:30 p.m. on Nov. 6. Held annually since 2002, the evening is a major fundraising event for MC's athletic department and, according to athletic director Mike Jones, has raised over \$2 million over the past 16 years.

The evening began in casual fellowship, and the large crowd of suits and cocktail dresses mixed and mingled to smooth jazz music pouring from a quartet in the corner. Afterward the meal was served: a medium-cooked steak with mashed potatoes and asparagus, and chocolate cheesecake and coffee for dessert.

“We have an incredible
program and this
dinner is a part of it.”
BLAKE THOMPSON

MC President Dr. Blake Thompson gave welcoming remarks and spoke briefly on the importance of good coaches. Thompson, whose father was a coach, said, “they teach you how to succeed in life and how to get along with other people.

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Image Source: Kyle Hamrick

MC Archery Team Brings Home the Gold



Image Source: Alisa Promise

TIFFANY STRAIN
ASSISTANT EDITOR

The Mississippi College archery team traveled to their 3D Intercollegiate Championships competition in Foley, Ala. to the Graham Creek Interpretive Center Oct. 25-28. Both teams brought home the gold.

For the past four years, Mississippi College has had an archery team. Archery is technically not considered a sport, but it is known as an “outdoor program.” All of the team's practices are held off-campus, at the Archery Center in Flowood. This is due to limited space on campus.

The MC men's team includes co-captains John Stanford, Bradford Sauls, and freshman Noah Parker.

Stanford said the team has beaten some of the best teams in the nation to earn the championship title. While it was an overwhelming experience, he said that this is something that every archer at that level strives to achieve.

“Shooting in Foley for the National Championships this year was some of the most fun I have had shooting my entire career. I'm thankful to have the great teammates that I do, and it was truly a team win and an MC win,” said Sauls.

The women's team consists of Allison Freeman,

Alisa Promise, and Morgan Hamilton.

“Being a junior and participating in competitions was not new to me; however, I do always feel challenged to improve with every shot. Advancing to the final round gave the MC Archery team the opportunity to show what we are fully capable of,” said Promise.

She continued by stating the competition was intense, and it was exciting to compete at such a high level. Promise said that this was definitely her best moment of the season so far.

“I did not even realize we were shooting for the gold

See ARCHERY • Page 2

Town Hall with Thompson

MEDEDITH
STRATMANN
NEWS EDITOR

Walking around campus this semester, it's been hard to miss the “Town Hall with Thompson” posters hung in various areas. Dr. Thompson has made great strides to connect with students. The town halls are a great way to do just that. Dr. Thompson states that town halls are a “chance for me to spend time with students. That sounds simple, but I think it's incredibly important.”

Town halls are new to MC this year. Becca Benson, the assistant director of student engagement, is the brain behind these events. “Dr. Thompson loves to hang out with our students. This is an opportunity for students to really ask him questions, and not only get to know him, but to hear what his

thoughts are about MC and where he wants to see things go,” she said. Dr. Thompson agreed, saying, “I'll say this. The purpose and title of my first major speech on campus was ‘Loving our Students.’ I think to love our students, you first have to spend time with them. An indication of your love and commitment is the amount of time you dedicate to them. I'm trying to do that, not just through the town halls, but through a whole host of things.”

Town halls are open to an array of ideas. Like historical town halls, students will have the chance to ask questions and bring up concerns. “Over some of these town halls, we'll get new ideas from students about who we can reach out to and how we should engage where and when,” Dr. Thompson said. Benson agreed, saying, “There is tons of opportunity with them. We are totally

looking for suggestions if anyone has anything they want to talk about specifically or logistically.” In addition to changing things about life at MC, the duo is also open to changing meeting times or places.

Benson and Dr. Thompson want the town halls to hit a number of “target groups.” The first town hall this year was for all general students, and the second was for clubs and tribes. One group that Dr. Thompson wants to reach out to is graduate students. “We've got a number of grad programs, and sometimes we don't see or hear from the grad students. They're so intense in their programs that we don't necessarily engage them in the greater life of the campus,” said Dr. Thompson. He also wants to reach out to commuter students and athletes. By reaching out to spe-

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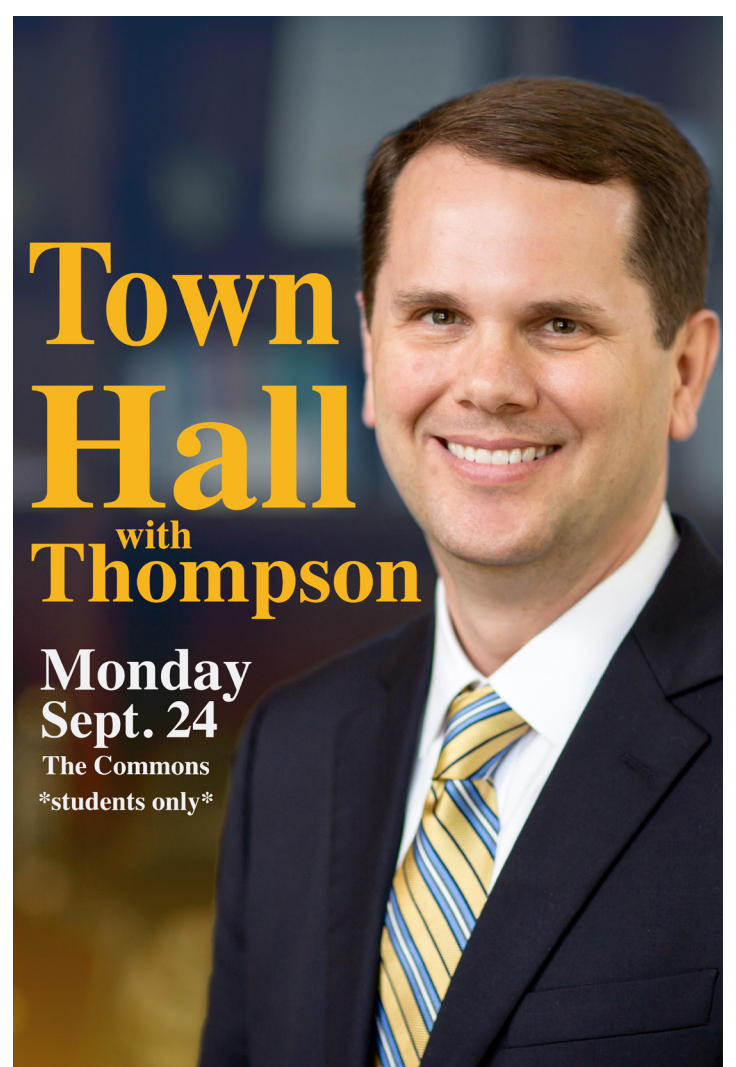


Image Source: Becca Benson



Dinner, cont.

Good athletic programs and good coaches bring people together.”

Also speaking were student athletes Zairia Brown, Women’s Track and Field, and Tiberias Lampkin, running back, who each shared their testimonies and talked about growing in their faith since coming to MC. Brown said, “I’m performing only for Jesus, and I’m doing what I love for Him,” and Lampkin played the piano in praise to God.

A staple of the dinner each year is a live auction conducted by a profession-

al auctioneer. His voice, like Porky Pig with a mouthful of marbles, filled the hall and encouraged those in attendance to bid on anything from condo rentals in Florida to New Orleans Saints tickets. Thousands of dollars were raised in that segment alone.

But the headliner of the evening was Archie Griffin, a former Ohio State running back and the only man to win the Heisman Trophy two times. Griffin, wearing a brown windowpane blazer and a graying goatee, shared the stage with Thompson and

answered audience questions from a pile of notecards.

After acknowledging the Choctaws’ tough football season, he challenged the team to be “the best they can be” and to “go down to Cleveland, Mississippi and come back a winner.” He even cast a vote of confidence, saying, “I think they’re gonna do it.”

Griffin talked about his childhood, his start in football at age nine, his hard-working parents who taught him a relationship with God, a college education, and athletics were his top priorities. When he was 13, he gave his

life to Christ, and his faith has been a “focal point” of his life ever since. With regard to his first Heisman Trophy, Griffin said, “I was at the right place, at the right time, with the right people,” and that he couldn’t have done it without his team. His second Heisman, Griffin said, was a gift from God.

Rather fondly, Griffin recalled the words of his coach at Ohio State, Woody Hayes, “One thing he always told us was ‘pay it forward’ . . . You look all over Columbus and you see athletes helping others because they learned

from Woody Hayes to pay it forward.”

The evening concluded with the presentation of a large prop check reading \$205,000. This was the second time in the dinner’s history the donations exceeded \$200,000. Like Thompson said after all was said and done, “We have an incredible program and this dinner is a part of it.” The money will definitely be used to continue and improve the programs that have had such a profound impact on the lives of those who participate in them.

researcher

psychologist

disaster expert

Dr. Jamie Aten
2016 FEMA Award Winner
Founder of Humanitarian Disaster Institute
Author of Disaster Ministry Handbook

As a survivor of personal and natural disasters, Dr. Jamie Aten lends his expertise to organizations serving in the midst of tragedy. Work alongside Dr. Aten and study how to lead communities to restoration through the [M.A. in Humanitarian and Disaster Leadership](#).

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Wheaton College Graduate School
For Christ and His Kingdom

Archery, cont.

until we won it. I was ready to go at it again,” said Freeman.

Archery is split into three seasons. In the fall, archers walk a target course in the woods or through fields shooting game animals where the holes are three dimensional. Indoor season kicks off in January and is considered the winter season. Archers shoot targets indoors from 18 meters away. Outdoor season takes place in the Spring/Summer, where archers compete at a further distance from the target and will shoot outside on a field.

The team will be competing in Regionals for the Indoor Season late this January. That will determine who will advance and get the opportunity to travel and compete in Las Vegas. The Vegas competition typically occurs in February. This is the largest and most prestigious indoor archery tournament in the world. The intense three-day competition gives archers the chance to win over \$403,000 in cash and scholarships.

Town Hall, cont.

cific groups, Benson hopes to “delve into deeper sections of topics to understand students as much as possible.”

The goal is to have a town hall every month or so. There have been two this fall, and Benson and Dr. Thompson are working together to plan a few for the spring. Keep an eye out for the posters placed around campus to see when the next town hall will be held.



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Fields Barnett: Balancing Soccer, School and SGA

ELLIOT REEDER
CONTRIBUTING
WRITER

When Fields Barnett, a sophomore soccer player here at Mississippi College, got accepted to MC the spring of his senior year and found out he would be able to continue his playing career at the next level, he knew instantly that he would be a Choctaw.

Since arriving to campus, Fields has excelled in and out of the classroom. Barnett, a Birmingham, Ala. native has a 3.89 GPA as a computer science major while playing soccer and has recently become involved in Student Government. Last semester, he ran for the position of SGA Sophomore Vice President and won the election unanimously, running unopposed.

His responsibilities as vice president are mainly to help support class president, Jacob Talezac, and Barnett was in charge of building the sophomore class float in the Homecoming Parade. He feels the float was a success, even though it was a little underwhelming. He would like to thank Talezac, Reanna Ivey, Rehma Siddiqui and Dalton Dempsey for their help to make the float a success.

Barnett also serves in the bi-weekly SGA senate meetings. He helps to vote on

crucial bills that pass through the senate floor. He also serves on the Food Services Committee. His committee meets with Mike Prince to help make improvements to the Caf and other on-campus dining. Barnett's crowning individual achievement so far while on the Food Services Committee was getting cinnamon spice added to the Caf on a permanent basis. He hopes to continue to meet his constituents' needs to improve the campus dining experience. He is still unsure if he will run for the same position next year, saying "I'll probably run, well...maybe."

Barnett started playing soccer around the age of six and has been successful ever since. Even though he took a break from soccer for a year, he regained his passion and excelled to new heights. His high school team won four straight state championships his four years of high school. He played for Hope Christian Academy in Birmingham, which was the cover school for him and his siblings while they were homeschooled.

Barnett says he has always been interested computers and was always "pretty sure" that he wanted to major in computer science. He said that he "did some programming courses in high school and liked that;" however, it was not until his junior year that he shored up his decision to turn his passion into

his major. He is able to maintain a 3.89 GPA, which he is actually a little disappointed in, by making sure he does every assignment, studies for every test and makes lists of the things he has to do.

His list-making is also what helps him balance all of his commitments. He also references the fact that he can balance so much by his body allowing him to function on far less than eight hours of sleep a night. He also gets his roommate and fellow Birmingham native and MC soccer player, Paul Downey, to keep him on top of his assignments. He says that sometimes he has to go to

his older sister, Felicity Barnett, for help in managing his schedule. Felicity plays for the MC women's soccer team and understands his struggles as a student athlete.

Barnett has a long list of things he enjoys to do outside of the classroom/senate chambers/soccer pitch. These include playing Minecraft, making trips to do trick shots at Kroger, watching The Office, and watching late night political podcasts. His favorite memory at MC would likely be watching his teammates upset nationally ranked West Alabama in soccer and being able to watch in the stands with some of

his friends and schoolmates.

After MC, he plans on either getting a job as a software engineer or making his own startup company. He has not ruled out getting a master's degree, and if he does, it will likely be in cybersecurity from the University of Alabama-Birmingham. He also is looking for an internship and would like anybody to contact him if they have any information. Barnett has been able to balance soccer, school, and SGA and has excelled at all of them, while staying rooted in his Christian beliefs. He truly represents what it means to "be MC."



Image Source: Elliot Reeder

New Kids on the Block

JEZ MASSEY
CONTRIBUTING WRITER



Image Source: Jez Massey

Whispers about a new club on campus sparked conversation in classrooms, among friends, and everywhere that conversation was held. Students talked about what the club would be named, while others wondered what the purpose of the club would be.

"To glorify God, to encourage chivalry, and to promote good fellowship," rings true for the men of Decerto Men's Service Club. Until recently, there were only four men's clubs at Mississippi College: Civitan, Kokoa, Rotaract, and Shawreth. Through vision, perseverance, and commitment, Decerto is now the fifth men's club on campus.

"I wanted to start Decerto to provide a place for Biblical chivalry. In searching for a foundation for the club in the word of God, we decided to become a group of gentlemen who embodied Ephesians 6:10-18," said Decerto president, TJ Williams. "That kind of took on a life of its own. We decided we would be knights and defend the faith and our brotherhood. We have chosen

to adopt a code of chivalry of our own based on truths we found in God's word."

Starting anything new on campus is no easy feat. Williams said, "The most difficult part in making Decerto a reality was definitely the committee interviews and all the tough questions I was asked." He continued, "I feel that if I made it through some of the questions the committees posed, I can literally make it through anything."

Rush season at MC is filled with recruitment meetings and parties, rush skits, social events, and a host of other things. "The first rush season was absolutely crazy. We started preparing almost as soon as we got approved for charter. We ended up with seven guys, and no one dropped out. So, we are pretty excited with the results," said Williams.

A part of Decerto's purpose is to promote spiritual maturity, to encourage studiousness, and to serve both the campus and the community. Each tribe and club on campus differ. Some focus

on service, while others focus on community; however, the overarching purpose of each is the same: to form sisterhoods and brotherhoods that focus on all things pertaining to Christ while serving the campus and the community.

"The guys in Decerto are super solid and are definitely having an impact on the club already," said Williams. He continued, "The main goal of Decerto is to be an organization that beams with not only the light of Christ but with the return of what it means to be a gentleman and showcase chivalry."

Running a club among other things is stressful, but Williams says that seeing Decerto get granted its charter has been one of his greatest accomplishments at MC.

The word "decerto" is of Latin origin. In essence, it means to contend, or to fight until the end. Through the many challenges of becoming a club, Decerto Men's Service Club is up and running. As of right now, they are few in number, but as with all things that are new, it takes time.

Is it Really the Best Christmas Pageant Ever?

AMANDA DOUGLAS
CONTRIBUTING
WRITER

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas on campus. In just a few short weeks, campus will be filled with holiday spirit, with MC hosting many events including Lighting of the Quad and the Festival of Lights to lighten spirits. In the middle of all these activities, the MC Communication Department Tribal Players will be putting on the 11th annual production of "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever."

Kat Tate, third year veteran of the show, has played Gladys

Herdman every year. "Gladys is a trip. It's fun because I get to be a kid again, running around, climbing things, and doing whatever feels right."

Senior Tiffany Strain said, "I am so excited to get to be a part of this show again. I got involved with it last year and got to play Imogene Herdman. She is so feisty and fun, and it was fun to get to bring her to life and I am excited to get to play her again this year."

"The Best Christmas Pageant Ever" is directed by Dr. Sandra Grayson, Communication Department professor and student-directed by senior Anisa Trevino. The production has been shown on Mississippi College's campus for 11 years,

and Dr. Grayson has directed every show. "Ms. G is amazing. She is passionate about the show and cares about her actors," said Tate.

Students from all around campus audition in hopes to perform in "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever." Not only do MC students participate in the show, but it is a city-wide production. Children from around the Jackson area come to be a part of the show. This is a show that everyone, no matter the age, will love.

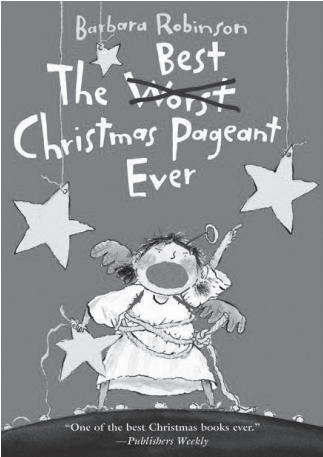
According to Strain, "We have made some slight changes to the play that I am super pumped about, and we are all hoping for some sold out shows."

The cast members are all excited about this year's production. There are many improvements and new things that you can expect to see in this year's production. People can come to this show expecting to laugh and leave in the Christmas spirit.

This year, the play will be shown on Nov. 28 through Nov. 30 at 10 a.m. daily. It will also be shown Nov. 29 and Nov. 30 at 7 p.m. The last showing will be Saturday, Dec. 1 at 2 p.m. in Swor Auditorium in Nelson Hall. The show will be \$10 for adults, \$7 for students and \$4 per person if more than 20 people come in a group. The production might be a points event for tribes and

clubs, so be checking social media for updates.

The cast and crew are excited to be carrying on this campus Christmas tradition and hope that this year's production will be the best ever.



Arts & Entertainment

33rd Annual Festival of Lights to Usher in Holiday Spirit

AFNAN BEAUTI
REPORTER

The 2018 Mississippi College Festival of Lights will continue the 1986 tradition beginning Nov. 29 in Provine Chapel. MC music professor Richard Joiner will direct the performance. More than 30 MC faculty and staff members perform with the MC choir in the program of music and scripture recitations. The MC choir will perform its annual tradition of entering and leaving the chapel by candlelight while singing “Of the Father’s Love Begotten.”

The Festival of Lights started in December 1986 at MC. The recitals introduce the Christmas spirit as the holiday season approaches.

The Festival of Lights will be held Nov. 29, Nov. 30 and Dec. 1 at 7:30 p.m. at Mississippi College’s historic Provine Chapel. Tickets are \$15 for adults, \$10 for senior adults (65 and up), and \$5 for students with an ID. Tickets may be purchased in advance at www.mc.edu/marketplace. Tickets are available at the door each night on a first-come-first-served basis.

MC’s 33rd annual event will feature harpist Vonda



Image Source: Mark Nabholz

Darr from North Carolina and oboist Patty Malone from Hattiesburg, Miss. The event will mimic the English tradition of the 1918 King’s College Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols.

Mississippi Public Broadcasting (MPB) will air the performances statewide as Christmas Day approaches in December. MPB aired the program on television last year and won a Southeast Emmy Award for the telecast.

“It has been such an honor to work with Mississippi College for their Festival of

Lights program. The choir sounds absolutely magnificent,” said MPB’s Taiwo Gaynor, who produced last year’s event. “We took a simple approach to capturing the program and strategically placed mics out of sight of cameras and let the choir make magic with their voices.”

The MC Singers will entertain the audience with various Christmas songs by composers such as Russian Pavel Chesnokov and Americans Morten Lauridsen, Kirke Mechem, and Stephen Paulus.

MC music professor and Director of Choral Activities Mark Nabholz conducts the Singers, who have previously performed at New York City’s Carnegie Hall and Lincoln Center. The MC Singers have also traveled to performance halls in Europe and South Africa.

“This year’s program contains familiar tunes such as ‘The Holly and the Ivy’ and ‘What Child Is This,’” said Nabholz. “We’ll also include wonderful texts set to new and beautiful music by British and American compos-

ers. All-in-all, it promises to be a special evening with something for everyone to enjoy.”

The Mississippi College Singers is composed of more than 50 performers, and the event will feature more than 30 MC faculty and staff members presenting a program of music and scripture readings narrating the birth of Jesus Christ.

For more information about the Festival of Lights, contact Dottie Serio at 601-925-3440 or email serio@mc.edu.

Books, Books, and More Books!

JOELLE YOUNGBLOOD
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Nestled between the library and Aven Fine Arts Building is a hidden gem of

MC’s campus. On the first Thursday of every month, the library hosts the Sale at Bookend Alley. Latisha Sullender, the Acquisitions Associate for Leland-Speed Library, coordinates the book sale.

The book sale started “about 13 or 14 years ago with a big one in Alumni Hall,” according to Sullender. Preparing for the sale took “a lot of man power” because each time there would be 75

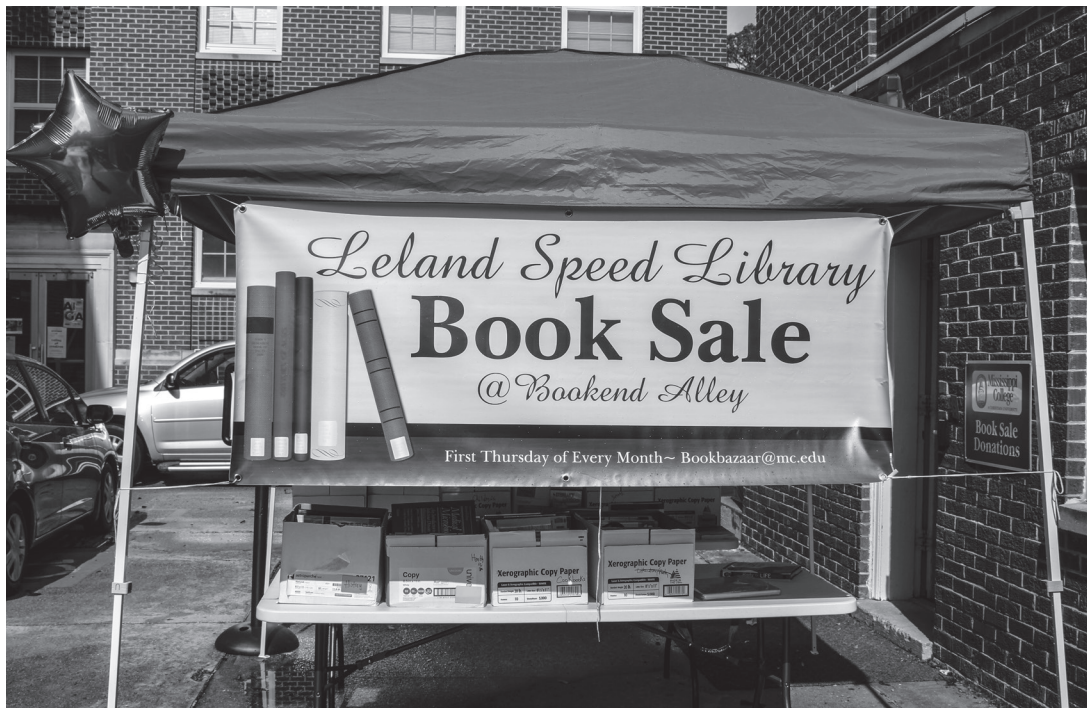
tables to set up in the gym. A few years back, Sullender stepped into the leadership position and made changes to the sale.

The alley between the library and Aven became the new home for the well-known book sale. “Close to 95 percent of our book donations come from people in the community,” said Sullender. Donation bins are located at the Healthplex and

First Baptist Jackson. Book donations are constantly being accepted from people who can’t figure out what to do with all the books they have.

“We have a lot of fiction books because they are a one-time read, so people are done with them after that. We also get a lot of history and religion books,” said

See BOOKS • Page 5



Images Source: Nicole Skelton

Women Speak Life

MEAGAN BROWN
CONTRIBUTING
WRITER

In a time when social media is a medium many people use to airbrush their image in a silent competition for popularity, one group of Mississippi College women have created a new kind of Instagram page.

The four founders, Emma Peck, Caroline Dobson, Anna Vandercook, and Ava Waller titled their small organization, Women Speak Life. Their purpose for the organization is to challenge the culture of false perfection on social media. They do so by taking photographs of people which capture their essence,

then adding captions containing their true joys, struggles, thoughts, and other honest parts of their souls. The page launched on Oct. 24, 2018 with an introductory post and has since posted eight more entries and featured three of the founders, Dobson, Peck, and Vandercook.

Peck had the initial idea for the page. She had been thinking about her struggle with body dysmorphia and recalls how she wanted to heal. She explained that body dysmorphia seemed to not be “as hard as... (things that) other people that I know (deal with)... I felt a lot of frustration... and shame... over not being able to just... move on with life... but (God)... pointed out that ‘this is a part of

your story and redemption... This is what... healing and resurrection look like, this is a part of your story that can be used for good. And I had never really thought about it that way. I didn’t think it was worthy of being something that could be used for good. But (God) just helped me see that,” said Peck.

Soon after she realized the value of her story, Peck went through a day when she noticed more beauty in the people around her than usual. As she admired their uniqueness, she thought about how it’s easy to look at other women with jealousy “as opposed to... ‘she is beautiful, and these are things that are cool about her,’” said Peck. Suddenly, an idea struck her:

to create a social media page that would be “a...platform... to celebrate other people, and to celebrate other girls specifically.”

Peck went straight to her room and told her roommate, Dobson, about her idea. Dobson was immediately on board. The two then contacted Waller and Vandercook, and the team of four began developing their plan.

After they launched their page, the women received an outpouring of positive feedback and love. However, they have also noticed that people also easily miss the point of their page. They have received comments about how they are “slaying” their “Instagram game,” and while they politely accept the encouragement,

they also try to clarify that boosting their own image is “the antithesis of what we’re trying to do.” Caroline explained that the team focuses on “...making sure...we don’t blur the lines of...trying to make this into a popularity contest of who we put on our page...Anybody and everybody is welcome.”

Caroline also talked about how the honest storytelling in Women Speak Life’s posts has brought people together in a unique way. She explained how when one person is vulnerable, then others feel safe to come out with their own stories, and they feel like “wow, I’m not alone and this isn’t insignificant, this is a part

See WOMEN • Page 5

Artist Spotlight: Scott Laudati

JOSHUA DILMORE
A&E EDITOR

“Can you sit with me, please?” When I read this line and the words that perfectly followed it, like pieces of popcorn threaded around a Christmas fir, I knew Scott Laudati was more than another coffeehouse-dwelling, spoken word artist.

A graduate of Ramapo College in Mahwah, N.J., Laudati worked both on the student newspaper and in the radio station. Here, without his parents “yelling” at him, he found the time to write and the “freedom to stay up all night writing and sleep all day.”

“I got so much writing done in college, I was actually getting published before I graduated. Time is the most important gift to a writer, and I haven’t had any since then. I look back at my time at Ramapo very fondly. I had some amazing professors who introduced me to writers and radical politics. It was all very inspiring.”

Throughout his career, Laudati has been twice nominated for the Pushcart Prize and contributed to countless magazines such as The Stockholm Review and The Columbia Journal. He

has published a book of poetry “Hawaiian Shirt in the Electric Chair” and a novel “Play the Devil,” which is being republished by Bone Machine, Inc. this spring. His latest book of poetry “Bone House” by Bone Machine, Inc., was published in March 2018.

The poetry within the pages of “Bone House” is raw, real. Laudati intended it just that way. “I like telling stories, and I’ve met many people along the way who write themselves.”

“I’m what you would call a pessimist,” he explained. “I’ve seen a lot, and most [of] it was bad. I think of myself more as a journalist than

anything, and I approach poetry with that mindset. I don’t think art should show you a sanitized picture of the world. I think it should be a mirror of our existence. When my poetry connects with people, it’s because the Oprah mentality of ‘live your best life’ didn’t work

for them. They want something authentic, and I’m trying to give it to them.”

Even though he works a “regular” job, Laudati described writing as “a full-time in every aspect except money.”

“It’s impossible to get paid. I’m lucky that my pub-

lisher has no interest in making money because he lets me sell my books for very cheap. I get less than \$2 for each sale, but I know nobody else has any money either so keeping the books cheap is important to me.”

Laudati’s catalog of poetry reaches 100 and some of his stories have gone viral on websites like Thought Catalog. Still, the author explained that despite a “couple thousand” likes, “nobody pays anything.”

“Aside from the books, I’ve made zero dollars writing,” Laudati said. “My best friend Thom Young has been written about in every publication on earth, and it generates no money. Even though it sounds like I’m complaining, I’m actually very grateful. It amazes me that all these magazines have a dedicated staff that work for free to publish quality poetry. If I had been born 10 years later, they might not exist. I’m so lucky my writing has always found a home.”

Despite having “no money,” Laudati said that he travels frequently. “Anyone can travel as often as I do if they travel like I do.”

The author travels to parts of countries that he said no one ever goes. With a tinge of danger here and there, he has found that these locales offer some of the best food anywhere (including his home of New York) from the street carts. “This has been true for me from Prague to Havana.”

“Traveling is important because it gives me endless things to write about,” Laudati said. “Everything is an



Image Source: Scott Laudati

adventure when you’re on the road.”

Currently, Laudati is working on his third book of poetry, which he intends to be his final one. “I think three books of poems is enough. I’ve said all I had to say. I never put any filler in. It’s all been the best I could possibly do. I want to get out before I become old and lame.” He added that many poems in this volume he wrote “years ago” and that he has been saving them for this final book.

Given his success, Laudati owes it to avoiding new trends “at all costs.”

“I never chase the trend because by the time you catch it it’s over. All these factors that are totally outside of your control have to come together perfectly...hopefully you’ve got a body of work that stands up when your moment comes. Mine hasn’t

yet, but I’m the only one who can write like me and I keep trying to do it the best I can.”

Laudati had a message for any aspiring artist, too. “You’ve got as much right to this life as anyone else. Don’t do it the way they tell you to. Everyone worships the ones who make it but discourage everyone else who wants to be different. You can shape your reality any way you want. You were given this brain for a reason, don’t waste it like all the useless people who keep breeding. Emerson said it best —your life is a life, not an apology.”

Laudati’s books are available for purchase on Amazon.com and at independent bookstores. Laudati said that readers can connect with him on Instagram @ScottLaudati, adding for everyone to “feel free to DM me and say hi, and you’ll get updates on my books and pictures of my dog.”

Books, cont.

Sullender. Many religious books have been donated to the library from retired pastors or ones that have passed away.

Even though the book sale is held on campus, people from all over the community are welcome to come. “Our big book sales are advertised in The Clinton Courier, and we use lots of Facebook [advertisements] along with a website called ‘Book Sale Finder,’” said Sullender. Faculty, staff, and students find out about the book sale the best through the campus-wide emails that are sent before each sale.

Other than the monthly book sale, there’s also the Book Bazaar that is a three-day book sale held in April and October. “At that point, we spread everything out, pull everything out of the boxes, and get as much out in front of everybody as possible,” said Sullender.

The book sale’s hours are 9 a.m. until 6 p.m., and “there’s a steady stream of people” that visit all throughout the day. “People shop for either five to 10 minutes, all the way up to half an hour. Some people I worry about, and I have to go get them out of the stacks,” said Sullender.

The prices of the books vary from \$1-2, with Bibles being free to anyone. “If you know of someone who needs a Bible, has a ministry, or if you need one, that’s a way that we can help others,” said Sullender.

Other than the book sale, the library helps other organizations. “We work with Big House Books, which is a prison ministry that sends

books to prisoners,” said Sullender. The library sends Bibles and dictionaries along with other books the prisoners might use.

The money that is collected from the Sale at Bookend Alley and the Book Bazaar goes toward improvements to the library. “We’ve upgraded our computer system twice in this time,” Sullender said. The next investment into the library will be new chairs in the small group study rooms. This money, as in years past, continues to be used to enhance library resources and services for the MC community of users.

Sullender says that her favorite part about coordinating the book sales has been “meeting so many people.” She has met people from all over campus, and she says that it’s nice to have people come and visit during the book sales. “It makes me feel connected to the rest of the campus,” said Sullender.

When it comes to more students coming to the book sale, Sullender wants them to realize that “there’s so much variety and a little bit of everything.” She also says that the books are “great for budgets.”

The next opportunity to swing by the book sale will be the first Thursday of December. If you would like to donate books, a drop-off location is located on the side of the library closest to Aven, at the Healthplex, and at First Baptist Jackson. For any questions about the book sale or larger donations, you can send an email to BookBazaar@mc.edu or call 601-925-3908.

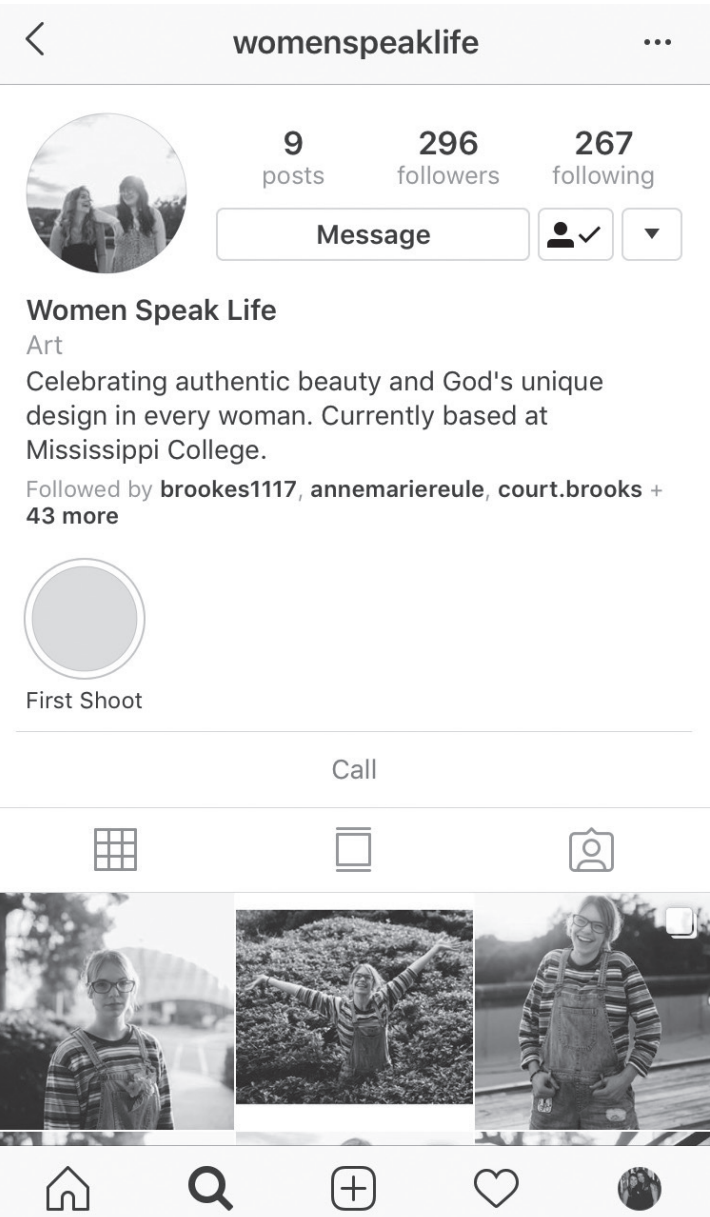
Women, cont.

of my story and sharing it can help other people... I feel like the goal has been met: to empower other women.”

The founders have grown through their own process as well. Vandercook shared, “Being a part of Women Speak Life has actually helped me be more of myself... I wasn’t thinking about that going into it; I was just thinking of other people.”

Vandercook has realized through her experiences in the organization just how deep beauty runs in people. She said, “It’s just changing my view of people. And I thought my view of people was already changed, but it wasn’t...nearly as much as I thought it was. And now I’m... really seeing the beauty in people from the inside and outside... It’s... the essence of people... Everyone is so different, and you can’t see that just by looking at them.”

The group is excited to see how the page will grow and help more women learn to be unapologetically themselves. In the meantime, they will continue to revolutionize social media, one raw, beautiful post at a time.



“Watch All the Things!”

An Average Jane’s Review of Netflix Shows for Christmas Break

JESSICA D. LETCHWORTH
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Welcome back to the Average Jane’s final review of 2018! Many of you will be bingeing your favorite shows over the Christmas break, so I thought I would introduce you to a few of my favorites. If you are one of the few that doesn’t have access to a Netflix account, then this might be the perfect opportunity to sign up for their free 30-day trial. It’ll get you through the holiday break and will provide plenty of time to indulge in one or more of these sweet treats. So, now without further ado, let’s get to reviewing!

1. **“The Haunting of Hill House”** – What is Christmas break without a little mystery, intrigue, and terror to boot? This reimaging of Shirley Jackson’s horror classic is one of the top picks on multiple binge-worthy lists for the fall/winter of 2018, and I have to agree with this particular choice. Viewers follow the Crain family’s summer renovation of the infamous Hill House, which includes more than their fair share of unusual spectral happenings. If you have even a remote interest in ghostly or ghastrly entertainment, I recommend this one for you. But before you dive in, Google hidden ghosts in the show to see still frame shots of the hidden happenings in each episode. You will not be disappointed!
2. **“Gilmore Girls”** – Millennial females cannot think of fall and/or winter without thinking of “Gilmore Girls.” This cult classic has been at



Image Source: pixabay.com

- the top of most binge-worthy charts for years. It is the story of the Gilmore Girls, Lorelai and Rory, as they navigate life in Stars Hollow and beyond. Every single character is lovable in their own ways, which means you are sure to walk away with the warm and fuzzies. The only question is will you be Team Dean, Team Jess, or Team Logan? #TeamJessForever
3. **“Stranger Things”** – If you haven’t watched at least the first season of “Stranger Things,” I am going to assume you have been living in a cave for the last year or two. Now is the time to exit your cave and embrace the ’80s awesomeness that is “Stranger Things” as Eleven and her band of misfits search for their friend, Will, who is trapped in the Upside Down. I will confess that I was skeptical walking into this one, but it sucks in you before you realize what is happening to you. It is by far one of my favorites available on Netflix

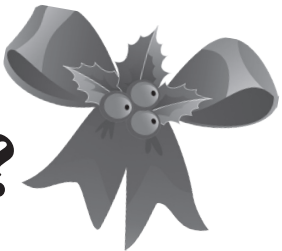
- right now, and I cannot wait for season three!
4. **“Disenchantment”** – Elfo, Princess Bean, and Lucy...this is probably one of my favorite trios on Netflix right now. If you prefer animation, especially Simpsons-esque animation, I would recommend you begin with this show. It is new to Netflix but was met with enough praise to warrant a second season, currently in the works to be released presumably next year. Trust me, you will not be disappointed.
 5. **“Campus”** – Words cannot adequately express how delightfully insulting “Campus” is. Think of the most politically incorrect thing you can imagine, then jog a mile or two farther, and you will enter the land of Kirke University, the setting of this profoundly offensive gem. My brother enticed me into watching this one, and I have to confess...I enjoyed every second! The only disappointment you will

- encounter is the fact that only one season is available. Watch it today!
6. **“Hart of Dixie”** – This is an oldie but a goodie. Dr. Zoe Hart comes from a big city hospital to the small town of Bluebell, Ala., in hopes of securing a coveted fellowship in surgery upon her return to the city. Does she fall in love with small town life or run as quickly as possible back to her big city lifestyle? You will have to watch to find out more!
 7. **“Heartland”** – If I am not mistaken, there are currently 10 seasons available of this Canadian-based production. “Heartland” follows Amy Fleming, the local horse whisperer, as she and her family navigate the ups and downs of ranch life in Alberta, Canada. If you enjoy westerns, ranch living, the dynamics of real life family struggles, or the beauty of mountain country, take a gander at an episode or two of this one. You will likely be multiple

- seasons in before you know it!
8. **“Frontier”** – Declan Harp ... what a man! The gents out there will enjoy this one for the virile element and Harp’s natural abilities, and the ladies will enjoy, well, Harp. Season one is well worth the binge, but unfortunately, I was unable to get into the second season as much as the first. It lacked the storyline, intrigue, and just plain ole “umph” that season one held. Nonetheless, I highly recommend season one and do believe you will enjoy it, too.
 9. **“Ash vs Evil Dead”** – Who doesn’t love Bruce Campbell? I mean, really. If you enjoy comedy with a side of zombie fighting, this is the show for you. Ash and his trusty sidekick Pablo fight a season’s worth of Deadites in an attempt to save the world from evil before it’s too late. Will they succeed? You have to watch to find out more!
 10. **“Planet Earth 2”** – Finally, if you are in the mood for a documentary-style binge session, then I highly recommend “Planet Earth 2.” If you are over the age of 20, you may remember when “Planet Earth” was released. Season two takes it to the next level in graphic design and quality. I was in awe of God’s creation throughout each episode and feel confident you will be, too.

Now you are set for the upcoming holiday break from school. If you find something even better than these unlikely gems, feel free to share your suggestions with the rest of us. I am always up for a taste of something new. Lastly, the Average Jane wishes you a very Merry Christmas and many blessings in the coming New Year!

What’s Happening Outside the “Bubble”?



JOSHUA DILMORE
A&E EDITOR

The fall semester is almost over, which means many of you will have more time on your hands than you know what to do with during the Christmas Break! Staying local this holiday season? Don’t worry, the Collegian’s got you covered. Here are six events happening outside the MC “Bubble” we know you’ll love!

FONDREN UNWRAPPED

Thursday, Nov. 15, 5 p.m.

The holiday season kicks off with this annual event which features open houses by Fondren businesses and vendors. Special appearances by Santa Claus himself and other costumed holiday characters with choral performances and other live music. Fun for all ages! For more information, visit www.fondren.org/unwrapped.

HANDWORKS HOLIDAY MARKET

Friday, Nov. 16, 9 a.m.-7 p.m. and Saturday, Nov. 17, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

Looking for that perfect Christmas present for that special someone? For 37 years, Handworks has promised unique, homemade products attendees won’t find anywhere else. Over 140 exhibitors will be in attendance. This year, the event will be hosted at the Mississippi Trade Mart. To see a full list of this year’s exhibitors and more details on the event, visit www.handworksmarket.com.

CHRISTMAS IN CANTON -- “CITY OF LIGHTS”

Friday, Nov. 23-Sunday, December 23

Visitors to Canton’s Historic Courthouse Square will be dazzled with the twinkle of 200,000 glittering lights. Canton Tourism executive director Jana Dear said that “This year’s new attraction is our interactive Christmas Village,” complete with Santa’s reindeer for children to feed and a marshmallow roast with Frosty the Snowman. For event times and ticket prices, visit www.cantontourism.com/events-2/2017/2/22/victorian-christmas-festival.

CLINTON CHRISTMAS PARADE

Saturday, Dec. 1, 10 a.m.

The Clinton Chamber of Commerce presents its annual Christmas parade. This year’s theme is “It’s a Wonderful Life...in Clinton!” based on the holiday movie classic “It’s a Wonderful Life” (1946). For more information about the parade or to register your own float into the parade, call 601-924-5912 or visit www.clintonms.org.

“A CHRISTMAS CAROL”

Premieres Saturday, Dec. 1, 7:30 p.m.

New Stage Theatre presents a spin on the classic tale of miserly Ebenezer Scrooge who is visited by the ghosts of Christmases Past, Present, and Future. The holiday show runs through the month of December. Tickets are \$35 with elder and student discounts available. For more information call the box office at 601-948-3533 or visit www.newstagetheatre.com.

SANTA CLAUS CRAWL

Thursday, Dec. 6, 6:30 p.m.-9 p.m.

A great opportunity to get to know what gems Olde Town Clinton has to offer, Santa Claus Crawl will feature cider and treats from merchants along the brick streets. The final hour of the event will feature even more goodies, door prizes, and maybe even a surprise visit from Jolly Old Saint Nick at the Olde Town Depot. Tickets for the event are \$20 in advance or \$25 at the event. For more information, call 601-924-5472.

Know of an event that you think readers would like to attend? Tweet us about it @MC_Collegian.



What is D&D Culture?



Image Source: pixabay.com

KATHRYN HURRY
CONTRIBUTING
WRITER

It’s November, and the semester is almost over. By now I’m sure all the new freshmen and transfers have gotten used to Mississippi College culture: that wonderful tradition known as “ring-by-spring,” the infamous guy to girl ratio (if you haven’t noticed yet, you will soon), and other things like it. However, there’s one aspect of it that seems to have snuck up on the students of MC: D&D. For those of you who don’t know or are pretending not to know: Dungeons and Dragons.

What is D&D? Dungeons and Dragons is an RPG (Role Play Game) that has been in circulation for several decades and somehow has infiltrated MC. It seems that every person I talk to nowadays either plays, knows someone who plays, or is lying. The first time I heard of D&D at MC was during an MC senior’s Capstone project last spring; before that, I had no idea that it existed on MC’s campus.

In media and in the minds of many people unfamiliar with the game, D&D is seen as a game mostly played by bespectacled young people (or middle aged people) who sit in a basement amid heaps

of laundry downing pizza and goblets of Mountain Dew while dressed up in home-made armor and wielding tinfoil swords. That actually is a common misconception and would be considered “L.A.R.Ping,” or “Live-Action-Role-Play,” which may or may not be played at MC.

In reality, people have different understandings of D&D, many of them positive. Sophie Abuzeid, a junior graphic design major, says of D&D: “Fun. I picture a group of friends—who are nerds—but... I just see people having a fun time. But yeah, I’ve never played it so I don’t know exactly what it entails, but it sounds like a lot of creati-

ty.” Sophie went on to say that she knows at least five MC students actively involved in Dungeons and Dragons. Isaac Jackson is a junior psychology major and a member of a Dungeons and Dragons group here on campus. Jackson said, “All my nerd friends, and me, being nerds together in one place.”

Dungeons and Dragons is a game which invites a group of people, whether they know one another or not, to gather together and stretch their imaginations while forming relationships with one another. In some cases, the group members know one another: there are many members of the Shaw-

reth Service Club who play in various groups. Or there might be a group made up of a mixture of people: some who know one another and some who do not.

D&D has made an appearance at MC in the past several years, steadily growing to include students of all ages, majors, clubs and tribes, and backgrounds. The stigma of a D&D group has changed as well: instead of the devil-worshipping game of the 1980s, which some loving grandmothers still believe it to be, it now is an opportunity for friends to gather together and spend time with one another, able to be who they truly are: nerds.

MC Writing Center







EVERY STUDENT IS WELCOME TO VISIT US!

To schedule an appointment:

- Visit WOnline @ <https://mc.mywconline.com>
- Drop by the Writing Center
- Call (601) 925-7289

Located in Leland Speed Library, across from the Gore Art Gallery.

Monday - Thursday: 9 am - 8 pm
Friday: 9 am - 3 pm



SPORTS

Strong Foundation for the Future

DAMON WRIGHT
CONTRIBUTING
WRITER

A common challenge that arises at the high school and college level is the replacement of an amazing and unique group of seniors that left behind a legacy of hard work and determination. In the case of the men’s Choctaw basketball team, the Choctaws will look to replace six seniors who left their mark on the basketball program. One senior who stood out was point guard Antonio Johnson, who led the team in 3-pointers made, assists, and minutes last season. He also finished top three in points, field goals, and steals. The loss of a point guard would be devastating in most cases, but the Choctaws have confidence in their new starting point guard for the 2018-2019 season: Dyllan Taylor.

Dyllan Taylor is a sophomore from Brandon, Miss. He played at Pelahatchie High School before he came to MC, which both him and his parents found as the best place to continue his career: “My parents and I just felt like MC

was the best school for me. It was more so an educational decision than it was basketball. Then the coaching staff just made me feel wanted, so it made MC stand out even more.” Taylor will have to come in and play key minutes for the Choctaws in the coming weeks.

The Choctaws have a tough slate of games coming up which include the season opener against Belhaven on Friday, Nov. 9 and an exhibition game with Auburn on Wednesday, Nov. 14. Though Taylor is young, that does not scare the sophomore guard, who is ready for any challenge ahead: “It feels good to know that you have coaches that believe in you. I don’t feel like there isn’t anything pressing.” Taylor has the skill set to be a special player for the Choctaws, but he does recognize that the leadership of the team, specifically the seniors, propels the team to the next level: “We have some great seniors on and off the court and they have a huge impact on the team. The seniors are pushing us to get better every opportunity. All of them treat me as if I were their actually little

brother and push me to be better.”

Coach Don Lofton is entering his 15th season at the helm of the Choctaw basketball team and expectations for this team are as high as ever: “Our expectations we set at Mississippi College for our basketball program are to play, act and live as champions. On the floor, we want to compete for and WIN conference championships.” Lofton has also noticed that this 2018-2019 is unique in a very special way, specifically when it comes to the perfect blend of youth and experience that is present on the team: “We have a lot of guys -- 22 for a college scholarship team. We aren’t very big, but we do have seven post players on the roster. It’s a good blend with five seniors, seven juniors, two sophomores, and eight freshmen. We have some experience returning, but there are only eight returnees from last year’s squad along with a lot of newcomers.”

Taylor is not only a fast player with great shooting ability on the court, but he also excels off the court and succeeds in the classroom. “Dyllan has a chance

to be a really special player for us. He is young, being a sophomore point guard. Offensively, he has great speed and can penetrate defenses and can score. Hopefully, he will continue to grow and be a leader on the floor for our team. Defensively, with his quickness he can be a disruptive force. He needs to add some strength in his upper body and continue to improve his fundamentals. Off the floor, he takes care of his academics and lives his life in a championship manner,” said Coach Lofton.

Point guard is the most important position on the basketball court, and it takes a special, dynamic player to play the position. Lofton has high expectations for Taylor for this basketball season: “For us to be successful we need Dyllan Taylor to play well. He plays the most important position on the floor being a Point Guard. He has had some really good days but needs to become more consistent with his play.”

With players like Taylor and the entire 2018-2019 team, the Choctaws are set up for a big season and a bright future inside of basketball.



Image Source: David Nichols

“First, there is no one who wants our program to get back to championship level performance more than me. I have 36 years and a lot of time of my life invested in Mississippi College Basketball. The change to NCAA Division II has been difficult as far as meeting our expectations that we expect for our program. They say success is never owned, it’s rented, and the rent is due every day. My staff and I are working together and paying the rent daily so that we WILL achieve our goals and one day soon experience success. Without question, we have a bright future at my school, Mississippi College,” said Lofton.

Lady Choctaws Get Ready for the NCAA Tournament

COREY RHOLDON
SPORTS EDITOR

For the second year in a row, the Mississippi College women’s soccer team has made it to the NCAA South Regional. Last season, the Lady Choctaws were the number one seed, and this season the team is the third seed in the tournament.

Assistant head coach, Adam Johnson, knows it’s an honor to make it into the NCAA tournament, and he wants to make the most of the team’s opportunity. “We are very happy, making it back to back years validates us and what the girls have been doing throughout the year. It shows we are going into the right direction,” said Johnson.

MC is going into the NCAA tournament with a 14-3-1 record, which includes a 12 game winning streak, but the Lady Choctaws have lost two of the last three games, including their last one in the GSC tournament against Montevallo.

Coach Johnson believes that trusting the process will get the Lady Choctaws back on track. “It starts on the practice field, and we are treating this like it is a new season. Our principles do not change, and the way we play does not change. We have to trust in



Image Source: David Nichols

them, and we know that the wins will come again,” Johnson said.

Senior midfielder, Samantha Carson, views the team’s losses as a learning experience. “We need to learn. Losing games is really good for learning. It was a shock to lose in the quarterfinals (GSC Tournament), and we really thought we were going to win the GSC Tournament. We know what we need to do. This week at practice we need to be focus on the small details. Every game is a big game

now,” Carson said.

A big problem for MC has been their offense as the team is averaging less than two goals per game, but thankfully, the Lady Choctaw defense has been unbelievable this year only allowing an average of .5 goals per game.

“Scoring goals is the hardest part of the game, and we have had our issues this year. Thankfully, once you get into the NCAA tournament, there is not going to be a lot of goals that are going to determine these games. So as long as we

maintain the quality of our defense and score one or two goals we should win. We have more than enough fire power to score one or two goals a game,” said Johnson.

Carson believes the goals will come when the team needs it the most. “We get ourselves there, but we take shots off balance or at the wrong time or not being selfish enough to take a shot. We just need someone to start taking chances, and I think we will,” said Carson.

The Lady Choctaws de-

fense has been excellent this season, and junior forward, Liza Wise, believes it’s because the team has great chemistry and leadership. “There is a lot of passion, and chemistry in the back. We all have each other’s back, and play for one another. We have great goalies, like Gabby Kayser and Andrea McDonald. We work really well together,” said Liza Wise.

Motivation is key for MC as the school made the NCAA tournament last year for the first time in program history, but the Lady Choctaws lost to rival West Florida by the score of 1-0 in the opening match. This year the team has experience and doesn’t want to make the same mistakes again.

“We have learned a lot from that match, physically and mentally. This year we have been a little bit wiser, and we have spread the load throughout the season. We have been really well prepared and have given the girls some time off to recover their bodies so we are prepared for what is coming ahead,” Johnson said.

MC’s first game in the NCAA tournament is against Nova Southeastern Friday at 12 p.m. in Miami. The Lady Choctaws look to get their first NCAA tournament win in program history.

From Jackson Academy to Mississippi College



Image Source: David Nichols

ELLIOT REEDER
CONTRIBUTING
WRITER

When Lauren Sheriff, a Jackson Academy product, made the decision to commit to a college just 20 to 25 minutes away from home, it was a weird decision because of the close proximity. Even with the initial hesitations, she believes she made the right decision, saying, “I think it was a great decision for me. I feel like God put me in the place that I need to be, because I

love this program, the coaches, the teammates, the school and everybody around me.”

Sheriff comes from a successful high school program at Jackson Academy where she won back-to-back state titles. Sheriff started under JA head coach, Jan Sojourner. Sheriff credits Sojourner’s past assistant coach work for the Auburn University’s women’s team as a factor that prepared Sheriff for the college game. Sheriff believes that part of the reason she was able to step into a starting role last year in

her freshman season was because of the work of her high school coach and because of her team’s success while at Jackson Academy (which included a 40-2 mark in Sheriff’s senior season).

Last year as a freshman, Sheriff stepped into a starting role at the start of the season and started every game. She finished second on the team last year in points per game and rebounds per game. She averaged 10.3 points and 5.8 rebounds per game. She says that during freshman year, she

had to step up so much, so she learned leadership, how to be a better team player, and versatility (on and off the court).

With the graduation of Kelley Allen, whom Sheriff points to as a big influencer to herself last season, Sheriff is now the leading returner in terms of points and rebounds per game. She feels some added responsibility and pressure with being the top returning offensive option, but she feels her teammates relieve some of



Academy, cont.

the pressure. “It’s not that hard because I have other people surrounding me,” she said. Sheriff also prides herself on her defense. She likes to play by a mantra that she learned in middle school of “defense wins games, offense sells tickets.” Defense is a major part of her game that she continues to work on, along with her offensive game. Sheriff also led the team in blocks last season (at just over one per game) and was third on the team in steals. She loves the feeling of rejecting someone’s shot. She says, “It feels amazing to block somebody’s shot;

it’s just like the same thing as scoring.” Over the offseason, Sheriff worked a lot on her conditioning. She worked on improving her speed, agility and overall improvement of her body. She worked on “getting my body right for this season by preparing and lifting weights. Anything. You name it, I did it.” Heading into a sophomore season where much will be asked of her on the court, she hopes to be a better teammate, a leader, and to be more versatile. She wants to “be more of a role model, rather than just being known as ‘the scorer’ or

for leading the team in blocks.” Sheriff’s faith in God has helped her on and off the court. She says, “He has brought me through a lot of stuff in basketball and in life outside of the gym.” She puts God as the number one priority in her life and speaks of the role God has played in her life from a young age all the way up to now. Sheriff calls the team a “family.” She says they have taught her things about her attitude, her offense, and her defense. She says the team is always with each other and laughing together. She says

they do a lot of team bonding and that the team is very special to her, and they mean a lot to her. Sheriff and the Lady Choctaws will play their home opener on Tuesday, Nov. 13 at 5:30 p.m. in A.E. Wood Coliseum against Lane College. The Lady Choctaws’ GSC opener will be at home on Thursday, Nov. 29 against Montevallo. Sheriff hopes the team can be successful and make a run at the GSC tournament and maybe further, but she admits that it is in God’s hands. Outside of the court, Sheriff wants people to know that

they can come talk to her at any time, even if they do not know her. She wants to help people, as she says, “I might not know it all, but we cannot know it all together.” She says she loves people and will always have a smile on her face. Sheriff is a leader on and off the court for the lady Choctaws. She is a strong all-around player on both ends of the court. If she can continue to develop her offensive game (even from the high level it is already at) to match her defensive furiousness, she will be a force to be reckoned with in the GSC.

Choctaws Look to Bring Home the Heritage Bell Trophy

SADIE WISE
CONTRIBUTING
WRITER

The 2018 Mississippi College football season is coming to an end. Despite the Choctaws sitting at 3-6 for the season, these past 9 weeks have been exciting, and there’s no denying that there has been a shift in the atmosphere inside Robinson-Hale stadium this year. From it being Dr. Thompson’s first season in blue and gold, to the fresh offense instilled by Coach Laurendine, there’s one thing that’s evident: the Choctaws are definitely on the move. The Choctaws started out the season with two home victories, and then lost their momentum when they were forced to take a week off after a cancelled game due to weather against North Greenville. The following week the Choctaws fell to West Florida, which was the start of a four-game losing streak for the team. The Choctaws would get their final win of the season

on the road against Shorter on Oct. 20. The Choctaws defeated the Hawks 37-24. “We’ve done better than I thought we would with this new style of offense that I put in in the Spring,” Coach Laurendine said. “I think we’re ahead of the curve a little bit, and I’m so happy that the players have bought into this new offense.” Coach Laurendine said this is the fourth school where he has installed this offense. “Being young in this offense, the kids are still having to learn as we go, and we’re working against some varying defenses every week,” Laurendine said. “This season has been a lot better than last year,” senior linebacker, Colton Magee said. Magee said there were a lot of times this season that the team just wasn’t able to execute, though. “We had some big plays that we missed, and just some small things that we let go,” he said. As far as this new offense, Magee said there were some doubts at first. “I feel like once we got going, it started click-



Image Source: Anthony Jackson

ing, and we had a lot of big play makers touching the ball from different positions,” Magee said. “It’s a great offense, and a really good fit for our team,” he said. Although implementing this new offense has had its ups and downs, Laurendine feels that the team will improve each year. “We should be better year two because we’ll have so much more experience,” he said. Even though Coach Laurendine is already

looking forward to next season, he knows the Choctaws have one final game this year, and it’s a big one. To wrap up the season, the Choctaws are traveling to Cleveland, Miss. looking for a win over longtime rival, Delta State. “This game is really important for both schools, since we go head-to-head in recruiting quite a bit,” Laurendine said. Magee said he heard about the Mississippi College/Del-

ta State rivalry before he ever even got to MC. “I think it definitely means more than people think it does,” Magee said. “It’s very personal, and I think it’s about time to get the trophy back here where it belongs.” Even though this season didn’t go as well as the Choctaws would have hoped, there is still a large amount of positivity coming from the coaching staff and from the locker room.

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OPINIONS

It's Worth the Inconvenience



Image Source: pixabay.com

JOELLE YOUNGBLOOD
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

There's nothing like getting woken up at 3 a.m. to the sound of your phone blaring and the sound of a train in the distance. For some people, the obvious sights and sounds of inclement weather

don't phase them, but for me, those sights and sounds are taken seriously. When I was in middle school, my mom and I had taken a trip to Jackson to see Disney on Ice at the Mississippi Coliseum. We knew that the weather that day wasn't looking the greatest, but we had no idea what would happen on our way

home. Once the show was over and we headed back home to Meridian, we noticed that the sky was turning those storm colors of a weird yellow and gray. We decided to try to get home as quickly as we could. Once we got about an hour from home, the wind and rain started to swirl around us. We were getting

weather alerts about tornado warnings surrounding us. At this point, we knew that we either had to keep driving or find somewhere to stop. Before we could decide to stop anywhere, we received news that tornados were confirmed in our home county. We call my dad and younger brother to warn them in case they didn't already know. Only five minutes had passed before my dad called us saying that a tornado touched down in our backyard picking up our trampoline and my young puppy who had just had surgery. Of course, we were hysterical because our puppy was nowhere to be found at the time. My dad profusely apologized because the only thing he could think about was getting my younger brother in a safe place (we can't blame him for that). We did end up finding our puppy, but our trampoline was a complete loss. Ever since then, I don't play around with inclement weather warnings. After that incident, my brother and I were always shoved in either our bathroom or closet with many pillows and blankets during warnings and watches. If it happened in the middle of the night, our

parents would drag us out of bed. There was no discussion about it. Now that I'm older, those habits haven't changed. If I know that severe weather could happen while I'm asleep, I always have my book bag packed with my essential items such as my laptop, room and car keys, and a phone charger. I also put a pillow and a blanket beside my book bag as well. Any time the sirens go off or we are told to go to the lowest floor of our building, I go. Yes, it's very inconvenient to have to wake up and spend a few minutes huddled next to your hall mates, but isn't it worth it in case a tornado actually hits? Over my years here at MC, we've had multiple times where we were awakened in the middle of the night. Every time I've seen posts from people about how they don't understand why we have to do this if nothing ever happens anyway. In my opinion, that's the worst attitude to have. We will never know when a tornado might actually physically affect us, but what's the harm in taking every precaution anyway? Being safe is worth being inconvenienced for a small portion of time.

Cultural Pressure for High GPA Yields Unnecessary Stress

TYLER SHAMBLIN
OPINIONS EDITOR

Tears are flowing, hearts are turning in knots, and phone calls to mothers across the country are flooding from college students. During our years in the education system, academia is hailed as the sole important enigma for all of us in the stages of near adulthood. Our American society has convinced us that success in the classroom translates into a cause-effect relationship with achievement in the real world. As both a competitor and follower of Christian values, I am the type of individual who will settle for nothing less than triumph and perfection, assuring myself that my standards of such outcomes align with Ecclesiastes 9:10 ("Whatever your hands find to do, do it with all your might"). Nevertheless, true practice of giving my best efforts applies to all facets of life. If I am a 4.0 student who fails to improve my relationships, remains in an incessant negative state, and gains my confidence from a score in class, I have gravely misunderstood the wisdom of "doing my best for the Lord." Your grade point average is still important to some degree, however. In order to obtain scholarships and keep them or to gain acceptance into a graduate program, you will need to fulfill your contractual duty as a student funded by the university. At the same time, I disagree with the stigma of a high GPA. Anyone can surrender their time to a period of rigorous studying and mental excommunication from society, ultimately achieving perfection in the classroom. Most industries, though, evaluate candidates for a position us-

ing a holistic view of their attributes. According to the Chronicle of Higher Education, employers care about (in order of importance, on average) internships, employment during college, college major, volunteer experience, extracurricular activities, and relevance of coursework to the industry before they factor in GPA. These criteria combine for 87 percent of the measures used for an interviewee. After reviewing this study, one cannot help but wonder if his or her entire perspective on the education system has been a lie. The burdens and stresses rooting from a low test score or class average that may plague the college student are unfortunately in vain. If it is true that GPA has such little weight in an individual's future, then why do institutions even use it as a metric at all? The answer we are often given is that GPA will "distinguish the good students from the bad ones," or something to that measure. These institutions that claim to prepare you for the real world, however, forget that you are not studying on their campus so that they can proclaim your academic success in magazines and on social media. Your existence at higher education should not be for the accolades of good grades, but rather to gain the knowledge and preparation for your desired field. You should be viewed as an instrument that continues to enhance family and society, not as a class average accumulated from marks on a paper. In addition, the numbers of GPAs in general are skewed based on different majors, coursework, and status for each student. Why should a student who received a significant amount of credit before coming to college who is taking upper level classes in the first year

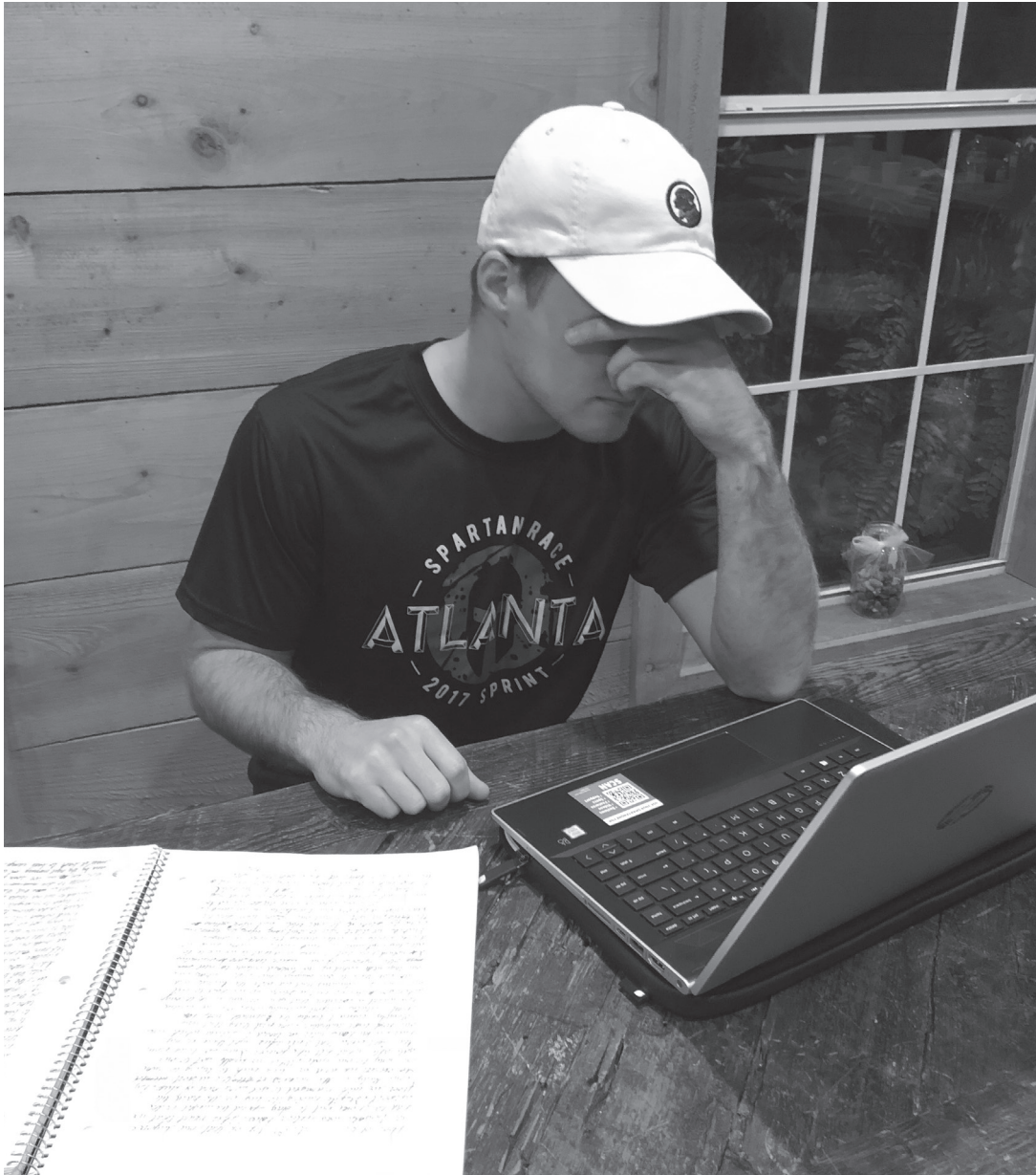


Image Source: Tyler Shamblin

be compared to a student just entering college taking more entry level classes? Why is GPA a metric of a quality student when different majors require entirely different coursework and demand different types of thinking and approaches? As someone who has worked his entire life thinking that his primary objective as an individual in the universe was to do perfect in school, I look back on all the academic success with some level of regret. My grades were not disappointing; rather, I was disappointing other people. I recall arguments that began from my own academic stress. I remember

distancing myself from important friends based on the number I thought defined me. Based on all of the practical and social opportunities to learn that I missed in seven and a half years (beginning freshman year of high school), I must say that the cultural emphasis on GPA is too high. College should not be a time to develop bad habits of living with constant stress in your life. Its purpose should be to teach you how to independently be an asset to whatever field you enter. Some stress is inevitable, but GPA stress should not be. Grades are ultimately objective in nature, and while some employ-

ers may use objective criteria to evaluate performance, they subjectively draw conclusions based on many intangibles you could bring to an organization. Do everything expected of you in the classroom and give it your best effort. However, keep in mind that with every decision you make to study extra for a fraction of a test average, you always have an opportunity cost. Life is about maximizing your time on earth; if you spend it stressing about all the things our society convinces you is important, you will never know who you truly are and what is most significant to you.



Is Social Media as Harmless as We Think?

TYLER SHAMBLIN
OPINIONS EDITOR

Somewhere between the “late” arrival of my first smartphone in high school and now the chaotic addiction to electronics we see, social media in some sense acquired the attention of the majority of my generation. Girls will pick their outfits based on what they’ve worn in prior pictures on their Instagram profiles. People will send pictures of just their foreheads through this sketchy app called Snapchat to keep a flame or a smiley face next to a contact’s name. People’s lives have definitely been altered due to social media, but is it for the better?

I do agree that there are ways that social media can enhance our lives by connecting us with others to whom we may not usually speak or by giving us information about businesses and discounts as we make economic decisions. I could continue brainstorming the benefits of social media in society; however, there are many drawbacks.

Social media, for many of us, could keep us from developing face-to-face communication skills. “Sliding into the DMs” is now the “How I Met Your Mother” story. Imagine having to tell your child you thought your wife’s profile picture was adorable so you scrolled through three and half years of the past to see if it’s worth typing a message, even though you see the young lady in class three times a week.

Not only with romantic re-

lationships are there communication issues, but also with just people in general. People nowadays commend themselves for having a political discussion on Twitter or in the comments of a Facebook post. They’ll say, “Well, he’s got us discussing the topic.” Well, actually, no you haven’t discussed anything. You called this man a racist for having a dissenting opinion and then attacked his character. No serious arguments need to be handled on any form of social media. There is no healthy discourse through phone or computer screens. I don’t care how many retweets and likes a post gets in response to another; when you read a post or tweet or whatever, you don’t see body language, hear tone or often interpret what is said as intended. I could go on forever just about this sole issue of Twitter arguments, but just know that someone’s 280 character message in disgust with another person or group is not enough for you to endorse or develop a lasting conviction.

Have you ever noticed how on Instagram, most people never put the bad memories, the ugly pictures or any sub-par content on their profiles? Instagram is your portrayal of how you want others to see you. Shallow people will see you just how you wish to be viewed, but your close friends know the real you. God forbid you post something funny, lest it get less than the minimal number of likes to keep on your profile.

Oh wait, Instagram is supposed to be our portrayal of

happiness and positive vibes to the world. Twitter is where the authenticity comes out. We tweet mean, hurtful things at people because “we’re real.” We degrade ourselves and talk about how we have no futures, and many girls at least once during final exams season will mention dropping out and becoming strippers. Hyperbole, sure. Twitter, though, is not the “real” social network. Twitter is a complaining network. People complain about other people who don’t believe the same things they do. People complain about their struggling romantic life. While some of Twitter is just funny and senseless humor, a lot of what actually happens is negative words that peo-

ple wouldn’t dare share with their 892 followers in a room at once.

Let’s not forget one of the driving forces in relationship argument: Snapchat. It’s like texting, but it’s intimate, since faces are shown (except for you jerks that send black screens or half-face selfies). I do understand why it’s a problem for some in relationships; it has to potential to entertain someone outside the relationship which is damaging. However, if Sarah chooses to be upset with Brad for Snapchatting Megan, then Sarah can’t be shocked when Brad doesn’t like Megan hanging out alone with Jackson. Also, the length that people go to keep streaks with a contact amazes me. I once

had a girl a few years ago pay a friend to Snapchat me from her account while she was out of the country, just to keep the streak. Due to my low tolerance for obvious millennial behavior, I refused to respond the next day and ended the streak.

Use social media responsibly, people. If you have to choose between experiencing a concert or taking a million videos for your Instagram or Snapchat story, choose the experience. Stop wasting hours of your life brainstorming a caption to your picture. The important people in your life will always care far more about your personal relationship with them rather than your profiles.



Image Source: Tyler Shamblin

Ghosting in Modern Dating is Unacceptable

AFNAN BEAUTI
REPORTER

After a month of dinner dates, long walks and Saturday movie nights, 23-year-old Hank was emotionally invested in gorgeous Hannah, and their relationship seemed to be blooming. They saw each other several times throughout the week and even met each other’s friends and coworkers. During a coffee date, one would ask the other the golden question, “Where are we going with this?” The agreement to move forward and “see what happens” was mutual. They kissed, parted and never saw each other again. Abrupt ending, right?

Hank tried endlessly to contact Hannah, though his calls went unanswered and texts ignored. He showed up at her apartment gate only to find out her code had been changed. Ghosted.

To be ghosted is to experience the end of a relationship with no hint, notification or respect, as a matter of fact, from the other individual, who simply disappears. The act is undesirable and unfortunately prevalent. The ghost becomes too coward to explain any reason for leaving and therefore intentionally gives up on the relationship, leaving the victim confused. Although the phenomenon is nothing new, it is definitely more common as people lose appreciation for face-to-face interaction and rely heavily on digital communication.

In-person courtesy notifications and conversations become weak, even to the point of extinction. Treating someone as such is no big deal to the person doing the ghosting,



Image Source: pixabay.com

What an indecent and selfish way of thinking. But that’s because that person is indifferent toward the ghostee. If there were heavy emotions involved in both parties, ghosting would otherwise not occur. So, ghosting means one simply does not like the other enough to stay, no matter what. The ghost who gave the victim the false belief they are cared about and loved is labeled a cheat, villain and crook.

Psychology Today estimates that nearly 50 percent of today’s men and women in the U.S. have been ghosted. About the same number have played the role as a ghost. This leaves a large number of poor souls with the emotional devastation to being ghosted, tearing away at their self-esteem, which may already be delicate.

Those who ghost others without the respect to communicate how they really feel truly have a void within themselves. Their own emotional esteem is low, and they struggle with putting themselves in another’s shoes. When people

meet online, the social connection is not as strong as an in-person connection, making the social consequences of ghosting someone less burdening. The more this happens to or is done to someone, the more desensitized to ghosting culture people become without realizing its emotional and psychological effects to themselves or others.

I see ghosting as a coping mechanism for someone’s slipping sense of self-satisfaction. If she can ghost him without feeling anything, she’ll feel better about herself for having the “power” over his emotions. It’s almost like a psychological win in someone’s head when they do the ignoring. In reality, however, it’s cruel. Victims end up feeling disrespected, disposed of and betrayed. They feel foolish for falling for the person and their tricks and come out with a damaged heart that lacks the ability to trust anymore. Imagine being nearly in love with the person and being ghosted. The deeper the connection, the more trau-

matic the occurrence of being ghosted becomes.

This culture of dishonesty and distrust has caused modern dating to be an emotional and psychological roller coaster with people fearing to date and with those who are internally scarred and spreading their toxins.

Those who justify ghosting are just avoiding a difficult conversation. It seems like a nice route to take, until you’re the one being ghosted. Even people who consider themselves to be transparent and honest have ghosted. I can admit that I have done it before. This cycle has created a toxic dating culture that is becoming a game rather than a search for a soulmate.

No one deserves this kind of treatment, but the ghost justifies it by not being the right one for you, so it’s best to just let go, learn and hope it never happens again. The validity of the relationship is not the question that a victim to ghosting ponders upon, but it’s themselves. They ask them-

selves why they didn’t see this coming and why they made such a bad judgement. The psychological distress a person feels lowers his or her self-worth and self-esteem.

The brain interprets social rejection as physical pain through the same pain pathways. Emotional pain, according to Psychology Today, can in fact be mediated with a pain medication like acetaminophen. Social pain can also contribute to psychological distress, depression and anxiety. Ghosting is done by surprise, so we don’t expect the act like we don’t expect our reactions to it. Before waves of emotional trauma come crashing into your mind and heart, however, what should you assume? Has the person been abducted? Did she lose her phone? Is she lying in a hospital bed? Should you be angry? The assumptions and reactions to such a situation of being left in the dark and out of control are ambiguous and infinite.

Communication is key in any relationship whether its two months old or six years old. Those ghosted should remember the other person’s decision to silently disappear is not a matter of their worthiness for love, but a matter of that person’s lack of emotional maturity and own self security. Keep your dignity in its place and peacefully let the ghost go, because your soulmate is coming your way. Someone else’s bad decisions should not rob you of your happiness, hope for love and self-confidence. Focus your energy on yourself and those who make you happy while keeping your heart open but guarded until the right person knows how to care for your unshielded heart.

Building a Home Field Advantage

COREY RHOLDON
SPORTS EDITOR

As the Mississippi College football season comes to an end, the team has a lot to be proud of. The Choctaws have improved their record by two, possibly three games, and the offense is averaging 13 more points per game than the prior season. For far too many of the Choctaw players, that is not enough, as they worked extremely hard all offseason and during camp to possibly make a run at the GSC title. Just like the football team, the fan support has improved this season, but that can improve as well.

MC was playing the No. 3 ranked West Georgia Wolves during homecoming, and the team was only down three points to start the fourth. As the players looked up for support and motivation to make a comeback against this great team, the once-packed student section only had a few fans left.

That left the MC players confused. Why leave when your school needs you the most, down three points in the fourth quarter against the



Image Source: Kyle Hamrick

No. 3 team in the country? Why leave when you can be a part of MC history and see the biggest upset in school history? These were some of these questions were being asked on the sidelines of MC, as the momentum shifted to the Wolves, and they won the game 36-21.

A senior on the team had some thoughts on the matter. “It is something that is a little disappointing considering

how hard we work and the effort that we put on that field. It would be great to see them stay the entire game -- just to boost our morale knowing that there are people behind us supporting us,” said senior cornerback, Brandon Pete.

“We were up against the best team in the GSC in the third quarter, and to see them leave really hurt us. I think it displaced the team as a whole, and I do not believe that they

know how much energy that they give us when they are there. The first half was the most packed and intense of my four years here. I don’t think that the students know that we see when the student section leaves,” said senior linebacker, Mike Hall.

“The clubs and tribes put all of their work into Follies, and imagine if everyone got up and left with three minutes left in your performance.

It would make you think, why do we put in all of this effort if they aren’t going to stay the whole time? We are playing for MC, and we need MC to be in the stands supporting us,” said Hall.

We understand that there is a lot of work put into homecoming and it is tiring, but for the sake of your school, next year, stay the whole game. Civitan Men’s Club and the Shirtless Crew stayed the entire game, and it meant everything to the team. But it would be even better if all the clubs and tribes and all the other students would stay and create a real home field advantage.

Football brings people together, builds pride for your school, and creates tradition and friendship. None of these things can happen if the student section does not change. This season was the most fan support we have received in my four-year career, but like the football team, we can get better. More students can show up, be loud, and most importantly stay the whole game. I promise you will see a difference. A difference not only in the score, but in the school and campus life as well.

Ladies of MC: How many times have you changed your major?



Sarah Chenevert
Major: French and Biology
— *I have changed my major three times. At first it was General Biology. Then, it was Elementary Education. I wanted to major in French, also. I couldn’t choose, so eventually I decided to do both French and Biology.*



Rachel Rocray
Major: Chemistry Pre-Med
— *I’ve never changed my major, but I’ve changed my minor a couple times. It was Biology. However, I changed it to Graphic Design. Then, I added Biology again, so now I’m a double minor.*



Haylee Holeman
Major: English Writing
— *I have changed it once. At first, it was English Education. When I got into class for observation, I realized I didn’t want to do that for the rest of my life. Then, I changed it to English Writing. This major offers me more opportunities than the Education field.*



Nia McKnight
Major: Biology Pre-Med
— *I have never changed my major. I believe that if it’s something you want to do, then you should stick to it.*

Images Source: Nicole Skelton

tic tac toe

